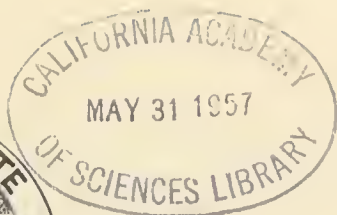


THE  
MONTHLY



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BULLETIN

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## EARLY APRIL BOAT TRIP CATCHES SOME SPRING MIGRANTS

The April 7 trip to the Farallons was one of the earliest for the springtime scheduled by the Society in recent years. Strong winds during the preceding day and night indicated a rough trip but, surprisingly, the sailing was smooth during the entire trip for the 33 participants. It was the first trip scheduled on the *Privateer II*, which is faster, larger and easier-riding than its predecessor, the *Privateer*. The prow of the boat is designed to afford dry footing for those standing on the forward part of the deck. The course followed after leaving Berkeley was to San Francisco to pick up additional passengers with a side trip to Sausalito, then to the S. E. Farallon Island via the San Francisco lightship. The sighting of many birds beyond this island suggested a side trip to the North Farallons, which was made.

Quite a number of birds were seen between Berkeley Pier and the Golden Gate. Large groups of Brandt's and Double-crested Cormorants, Surf Scoters, and Western Grebes were present in the Bay. Two Common Loons were seen off Sausalito. To the north of the Gate a large flight of birds that appeared to be Black Brant was noted but too far away for positive identification. Between the Golden Gate and the islands birds were few, but upon reaching the islands birding suddenly became brisk. As the boat cruised close to the rocks on the north side many birds took flight from the rocks and water. There were excellent views of Murres, Pigeon Guillemots and Tufted Puffins, and Sooty Shearwaters were spotted ahead of the boat. Cassin's Auklets literally popped out of the water as the boat went ahead at reduced speed. About 150 Black Brant flew overhead heading north.

At this point we decided to break out the two large cans of "Albatross candy," a mixture of bacon grease and Corn Kix cereal that had been prepared the previous day under the supervision of Howard Cogswell, who has used it with great success on previous trips. A cloud of Western Gulls soon followed. Shortly, two Black-footed Albatross glided in close to the boat. They were a popular target for the many cameras on board.

The return from the North Farallons was to the west side of the S. E. Farallon. Upon reaching the island it was circled on the south and east part. Here 2 Eared Grebe and 16 Horned Grebe were seen. As a grand finale to a very successful day Rhinoceros Auklet and Ancient and Marbled Murrelet

were seen and studied for some time in the placid water east of the island. The return trip was warm and smooth and many of the members of the group caught up on some lost sleep.

The following 32 species were seen: Common Loon 2, Pacific Loon 9, Horned Grebe 16, Eared Grebe 2, Western Grebe 158, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Black-footed Albatross 2, Sooty Shearwater 500, Pink-footed Shearwater 2, California Brown Pelican 1, Farallon Cormorant 300 (est.), Brandt's Cormorant 150, Baird's Cormorant 50, Black Brant 150 (est.), White-winged Scoter 2, Surf Scoter 145, Coot 15, Black Turnstone 5, Glaucous-winged Gull 25, Western Gull 3,000 (est.), Herring Gull 13, California Gull 10, Bonaparte's Gull 3, Forster's Tern 8, California Murre 500 (est.), Pigeon Guillemot 300 (est.), Marbled Murrelet 5, Ancient Murrelet 4, Cassin's Auklet 250 (est.), Rhinoceros Auklet 2, Tufted Puffin 22, Savannah Sparrow 3.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Leader and Historian*.

#### APRIL TRIP TO McCOY RANCH, ARROYO MOCHO, LIVERMORE

On Sunday, April 28, a large group of enthusiastic birders met at 9:30 in Livermore. It was a fine morning becoming quite warm as the day advanced. Wild flowers were in abundance everywhere. Mrs. McCoy greeted us, as she has since the Society's first trip there in 1929, in her usual hospitable manner at her ranch in Arroyo Mocho southeast of Livermore. The house wrens were in song and in full view as they entered and left their nest. Lewis Woodpeckers offered close at hand observations for the entire group. Near the ranch house, the unusual bird of the day, a Hermit Warbler, was observed singing in an oak. It was in no hurry to leave the area, which gave everyone an opportunity to make a careful study of it. After lunch most of the group drove on a few miles toward Mt. Hamilton to see the Phainopepla. In the same area, at the bridge, all were rewarded with a fine view of this handsome bird. Bullock's Orioles also were seen in great numbers.

The following 61 species were noted: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow (?), Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Plain Titmouse, Com. Bush-Tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-Tit, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, American Robin, Western Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bl.-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Am. Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, (Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Along the Del Puerto Canyon Road towards Patterson, Greater Yellow-legs, Rock Wren, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Horned Lark, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Lark Sparrow were seen.

—MYRA BROWNE, *Leader and Historian*.

MAY TRIP TO PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT, HOLLISTER

On Saturday, May 4, some 35 or 40 people showed up by 1 p.m. to enjoy a wonderful weekend of camping and birding. The weather both days was excellent, with temperature ranging somewhere between 90 and 100 degrees. After all were assembled, we proceeded on a hike through an interesting cave which was enjoyed thoroughly by the group. On Sunday the group took the four-mile walk over the High Peaks Trail with its spectacular rock formations and observed a pair of Peregrine Falcons, which was the highlight of the day.

The following 77 species were observed in the two days: Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Screech Owl, Pygmy Owl, Poor-will, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western (incl. Arkansas) Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Common Raven, American Crow, Plain Titmouse, Common Bush-Tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-Tit, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, California Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Bl.-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, (Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, (Bell's) Sage Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Song Sparrow.

— CHAS. HINES, G.G.A.S.

CONDENSED TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1956

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Balance in commercial account January 1, 1956 .....	\$ 2,194.18
Receipts in 1956 .....	4,868.73
Total .....	\$ 7,062.91
Cash paid out (expenditures) .....	4,878.92
Balance in commercial account December 31, 1956 .....	\$ 2,183.99

TOTAL ASSETS:

Commercial account .....	\$ 2,183.99
Savings account .....	2,652.32
U.S. Treasury Bond .....	500.00
Total .....	\$ 5,336.31

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in force January 1, 1956 .....	830
Membership in force December 31, 1956 .....	881

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Treasurer for 1956.*



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mr. Rudolph Dodge, Mrs. Jessie B. Ferguson and Mr. David Oechsli; from Oakland, Miss Valerie Lounkin, Mr. Edward P. Benjamin, Mr. Jack Miller and Mrs. H. L. Hess; from Orinda, Mrs. Jefferson Larkey; from Richmond, Mr. Richard J. Leuba; from San Francisco, Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr., Mr. Arthur W. Pratt, Miss Patricia L. Triggs, Mrs. L. S. Cherney, Mr. S. R. Wellings, Miss Pearl M. Rasimas, Miss Clara Huntington and Mr. Jack Mizuhara.

—JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman*.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Beginning with the May issue, an editorial staff of three members assumed responsibility for publication of "The Gull." They are Miss Ruth Newborgh, *Editor*; Mrs. Hermine Van Gelder, *Assistant Editor*; and Mrs. Virginia Thompson, *Field Trips Editor*. Because the division of labor involves problems of coordination, it has been necessary to set the deadline for copy on the 15th of the month. To meet the deadline, field trip reports should be in the hands of the *Field Trips Editor*, whose address is 22501 Bayview Avenue, Hayward (LUcerne 1-1501) by the 5th of the month. All other copy should be sent to the *Editor* at 1241 Evelyn Avenue, Berkeley 6. The Assistant Editor has offered to review exchange publications for items of special or general interest for inclusion in "The Gull" from time to time as space permits.

On behalf of the entire membership, appreciation is expressed to the former editor, Howard L. Cogswell, for his contribution during the past year in keeping "The Gull" flying.

## AUDUBON BIENNIAL CONVENTION FIELD TRIP TO POINT LOBOS

An all-day field trip to Point Lobos Reserve State Park was attended by conference members on Monday, April 15. Going by motor caravan from Asilomar we assembled at Pine Grove Picnic Area on the south side of Point Lobos. Here we divided into 10 units, each with its own leader, half of the units taking the North Circle walk in the morning while the other half followed the South Circle trail. In the afternoon the two groups took the alternate route.

The North Circle tour included fine stands of Monterey pine just north of Pine Grove; Big Meadow, southwest of Carmelo Cove, where wild flowers were abundant; Bluefish Cove beyond, which gives an excellent view of Carmel Bay and the Monterey Peninsula; a climb through The Pass and on to the Veteran Cypress which clings to the cliff overhanging Cypress Cove with a third of its roots exposed to the seaside wind and moisture; then along the precipitous edge of the Cove where we heard the nesting gulls give their "long call" and back to Pine Grove by way of Punta de los Lobos Marinos and Sand Hill, where we watched a pair of Black Oyster-catchers.

The South Circle walk followed the China Beach Trail to China Cove and Bird Island along a path which traversed both pine woods and chaparral areas and overlooked many unspoiled quiet beaches. Bird Island is the nesting place of Brandt's Cormorant and the Brown Pelican. Pigeon Guillemots also were observed, as well as sea otters further out in the kelp beds.

At noon all units assembled at Pine Grove, where good box lunches, hot soup, coffee and milk awaited us. After lunch Bill Goodall, convention director and Pacific Coast representative of the National Audubon Society, introduced the Park Supervisor, James Whitehead, who welcomed us as an Audubon Society group to the Point Lobos Reserve State Park. After Mr. Whitehead's cordial welcome, Dr. Warren C. Thompson, Associate Professor of Oceanography and Aerology, U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, gave a talk on the Monterey Sea Valley.

We had looked forward to this full day out of doors and with the help of fine clear weather all expectations were fulfilled.

—BETH SNYDER

## CONVENTION REPORT

More than 450 persons attended the National Audubon Society Biennial Convention at Asilomar April 12 - 15. With the cooperation of local societies and garden clubs which acted as hosts and the work of Bill Goodall in gathering an outstanding array of specialists in Marine Biology and Oceanography, the group enjoyed three days of stimulating talks and trips.

*Announcement:* The next Biennial Convention will be held at Asilomar on March 21 - 24, 1959.

## REPORT ON BEGINNERS' COURSE

The series of four field trips for beginners on Friday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00 has met with enthusiastic response. Another series may be scheduled in the Fall if interest warrants. Announcement of the dates, places, and leaders will appear in "The Gull."

—MYRA BROWN, *Education Committee Chairman.*

## OBSERVATION

Mrs. Laura White reports that on May 12 a bird she had not seen before lit in her yard on Pinehaven Road, Oakland. She noticed it was a black bird with a yellow nape and many white markings on its back. Later her daughter, who is not a birder but is a musician, came in and announced she had heard a Bobolink singing. She has lived where there are lots of Bobolinks and assumed they were casual around here. Mrs. White rushed to her field guide to look it up. From the description in the book, Mrs. White feels sure that the bird was a Bobolink, although Bobolinks usually occur only in Modoc County in Northeastern California and are not very common there.

## JUNE MEETING

The 477th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 13, in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco, Larkin at McAllister Streets (No. 5 bus).

Miss Lee Crouch of the U. S. Forest Service will be our speaker. She will be remembered for her excellent talk two years ago. "Waters of Cowetta," a new film taken in the Black Hills of South Dakota, will be shown. Come and bring a friend.

—BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

There will be a no-host dinner preceding the meeting at 6 p.m. at the Whitcomb Hotel, on Market Street near the Library.

—ETHEL L. MEYER, *Social Chairman.*

## FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

On Sunday, June 2, to SACRAMENTO AND VICINITY. A joint trip with Sacramento birders to the lowland watercourses and farmland in and near the City of Sacramento. This trip last year was very profitable, with many species of shorebirds and waterfowl being observed, as well as such delectables as Western Kingbird, Purple Martin, Yellow-billed Magpie, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throat, Blue Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting. Meet at 9 a.m. at the State Library Circle where Highway U.S. 40 meets the Capitol grounds in Sacramento. Allow about two hours and fifteen minutes from Oakland or San Francisco. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends. Leader, Bill Kirsher, Sacramento, IVanhoe 9-7247.

On Saturday, June 15, to MT. DIABLO STATE PARK. The association of digger-pine, oak, chaparral, and grassland attracts many interesting and colorful birds. Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and, if we are lucky, possibly Bell's Sparrow may be seen. Meet at the Rock City Picnic Grounds at 9 a.m. This area may be reached easily either from the north (Walnut Creek to Clayton Road) or from the south (Alamo or Danville). Allow about one hour from Oakland or Berkeley. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends. Leader, Peter Veitch, 154 Camino Sobrante, Orinda, CLifford 4-2419.

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President.....	Paul F. Covel.....	2860 Delaware Street, Oakland 2, KE 6-4120
Vice President.....	Howard L. Cogswell.....	Box 9486, Mills College, Oakland 13, NE 6-1573
Vice President.....	Harold G. Peterson.....	3548 - 65th Avenue, Oakland 5, LO 8-7534
Treasurer.....	Miss Margaret J. Milwain.....	731 Alma Avenue, Oakland 10, AN 1-9430
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Editor.....	Miss Ruth H. Newborgh.....	1241 Evelyn Avenue, Berkeley 6, LA 5-8610

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way  
Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042